Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 018396
ORIGIN AF-10

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NEA/AFN:JBISHOP
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R 240722Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO OAU COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS STATE 018396

FOL ADDIS ABABA 0310 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN TEHRAN
JIDDA JAN 20, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 0310

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, SOPN, AORG, OAU, ET, IR, SO
SUBJ: OAU PRESS RELEASE ON IRAN AND HORN OF AFRICA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 0288

1. OAU INFO OFFICER GAVE COPY OF FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE
TO EMBOFF JAN 20, WHICH RELEASED TODAY. TEXT AS FOLLOWS:

NO. 652

IRAN AND AFRICA

THE RECENT STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN
CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA IS REPLETE
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WITH VERY DISTURBING OVERTONES. IRAN HAD BETTER ADDRESS
HERSELF TO THE QUESTION OF FINDING APEACEFUL SOLUTION
TO THE CRISIS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND ASSIST THE OAU
IN THIS TASK RATHER THAN PREEOCUPY HERSELF WITH HYPOTHETICAL
SITUATIONS WHICH TEND TO CLOUD THE ISSUE IN THE HORN OF
AFRICA

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THE OAU WELCOMES SUGGESTIONS FROM GENUINE FRIENDS OF AFRICA ON HOW TO SETTLE PEACEFULLY THE PRESENT CONFLICT IN THE HORN BUT SHE HAS NO ROOM FOR ANY COUNTRY WHOSE CONSUMING PASSION IS TO EXTEND HER SPHERE OF INFLUENCE TO AFRICA BY PLAYING THE ROLE OF A MINI-POWER.

IRAN SHOULD DEMONSTRATE TO AFRICA THAT SHE MEANS WELL IN AFRICA. HER CONTINUED ASSOCIATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA WHICH RECEIVES 90 PER CENT OF HER OIL SUPPLY FROM IRAN DOES NOT QUALIFY HER TO PLAY ANY ROLE IN THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. THE OAU CANNOT FORGET THE RECENT SNUB OF IRAN OF THE MISSION OF THE OAU COMMITTEE OF 7 ON OIL SANCTIONS WHICH WAS TOLD THAT IT CAN ONLY VISIT IRAN AS TOURISTS BUT NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING IRAN'S OIL SUPPLY TO APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA.

THE OAU WISHES TO REITERATE THAT EXISTING AFRICAN PROBLEMS MUST BE RESOLVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE CHARTER OF THE ORGANISATION. THIS IS A TASK WHICH SHOULD BE LEFT TO AFRICANS THEMSELVES. FOREIGN POWERS SHOULD STOP MEDDLING IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND AS REGARDS THE PRESENT CONFLICT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, THEY SHOULD DO NOTHING THAT WOULD ALLOW THE SITUATION TO ASSUME AN INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER THEREBY COMPLICATING THE PRESENT OAU EFFORTS TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

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ADDIS ABABA, 20 JANUARY, 1978.

END TEXT

2. THIS OAU MESSAGE REFERRED TO IN ADDIS ABABA 0288 PARA 4 (NOTAL). FURTHER COMMENTS TO FOLLOW BY SEPTEL.
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